

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S

LATEST BOOKS

A Heroine Who Works Out Her Problems—A Breathless Tale of Border Days—Times of Queen Mary.

An Astonishing Piece of Realism—An Interesting and Violent Tale—Other New Fiction.

THE TOWNS OF ILIUM. (George H. Doran Company.) By Ethelyn

A young woman who has to work out for herself the various problems that afflict the modern feminine mind, as the heroine of Ethelyn Leslie Huston. (\$1.35.)

Doran Company) does, inevitably is more of an abstraction than a human being. She lives in a large Western town on the lakes which the author describes with much sympathy. She has formed the habit of seeking the truth, of making up her own mind and acting without regard to what people think. When obliged to earn her own living and to support her father, she receives little assistance from her well-to-do friends. First she manages

for publishers and drifts into journalism, which enables the author to expatiate on whatever evils she chooses. It is the sex relation, however, that is of chief importance, and this is discussed with as little offensiveness as

mental processes alone are described. She seems drawn to "masterful" men, but wishes to wait till she finds her soul mate. One eligible suitor she rejects because another man is already prevailing on him when she is fagged out to marry him. They find out soon after that the marriage is invalid, but she refuses to have it set right, sends the man off and is pleased with the thought that she has made a choice that will be wholly her own. She lives her own life bravely, supported by a band of bohemian friends, till she meets the right man, a puritanical surgeon unhappily married. She applies herself to the task of winning him, and in time the two fight to a finish. The boss is beaten in spite of his teaching and is driven from the camp as if seemingly killed, while the college-bred wins the young woman ruler of the wild.

religion, morals and so on, and the author allows them to be united conventionally enough, after the heroine has had her say.

THE HOUSE OF LUCK. (Small, Messrs. A. C. Co., 15, Nassau street, New York.)

Dickson. (\$125.) A tale of breathless excitement and of variegated crime has been spun by Harris Dickson in *The House of Luck* (Small, Maynard & Co., Boston). Viciously and exceptionally lawless border community; the author makes it also the headquarters of a criminal organization to which murder and robbery, stealing and kidnapping, and even the priviledges of a circus, are compared with the participation of a slave insurrection, the ravaging of the Mississippi valley and other wholesale villainy. The influence of the photography is manifest in the author's passage from the most heinous crimes to the much to say of the villainess of his novel, yet he behaves decently in his own criminal moments because she thinks of her, rescues her from the gold he has discovered from the other gorilla-like creature made in his model he has chosen for himself, a woman who accumbs to the young man's passion a satisfactory explanation for the sentimental romances that brutal school scoffs at. The author seems to have a high opinion of S. It is an interesting tale in spite of the excess of violence.

THE SHOOTING SPELL. (Doubleday & Co.) Leafe (Dramatic)

The bantering tone that Leslie Boy keeps up till the last pages of *Shifting Spell* (Duffield & Co.) will lead the reader to believe that the story is simply about the awakening of an amiable young woman to the

Stoughton Holborn. (\$1.25.)

If the reader will add a few years to the heroine of Ian B. Stoughton Holborn's *The Child of the Moor* (G. Arnold Shaw, New York), he will find it a more than adequate substitute for a romantic adventure. It tells of the troublesome days of Queen Mary and of the religious persecutions, of witchcraft and cruelty and other matters that parents prefer to keep from the eyes of their offspring. The heroine is assigned twelve years to his heroine, but he endows her with clearheadedness and foresight beyond the average of older people and with physical strength and courage that are not

the youth whom she does not care to marry; but that she does care for another young man. The introduction of African magic seems to be a rather odd experiment in hypnotism. The two main characters are a bit odd. The reader will feel mystified as well as surprised when he finds that the hypnotism is real and has been employed to further a dastardly scheme. There are two vicious persons whose unworthiness is not suddenly. When the explanation is given it seems difficult to understand how people who have lived for many years together could know so little of each other's characters.

might envy. The hero also forms a sentimental attachment for her which is only justified when she grows older. The author uses with lavishness the paraphernalia of the romantic Scottish border, keeps, secret passages, cor-

terms, a ubiquitous hag who is very devilish, and assorted villains, lay and clerical. His story certainly holds the reader's attention.

A COUNTRY CHRONICLE. (The Century Company.) By Grant Showerman. (\$1.00.)

A small boy of nine or ten in a country village of the middle West relates in Grant Showerman's *A Country Chronicle* (The Century Company) the things he sees happening around him in childish language and with a child's ideas. He goes to school and plays and chatters with his playmates. He is a very good boy, and

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